



# UPDATE

19th December 2024

## Next Weeks Events

Monday—

Tuesday—

Wednesday— Ho Ho Ho

Thursday— Afternoon Naps for everyone

Friday—

**1.30pm finish tomorrow**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### December 2024

19th— Awards and Carols Evening

20th— Last day of Term 4—1.30pm finish—No afternoon Bus service

### January 2025

28th— Staff return

29th— Grade 1-6 students return to school

29th— Foundation Assessments start—individual dates and times to be advised

30th— Foundation Students start school

## Student Assembly tomorrow will be at 1.15pm

We will have a short student assembly at 1.15 to wrap up the year and say a final good bye to everyone.

## Thanks

Thank you to Kenneth and the Panakal family for the donation of the fabulous bird house.

Students have decorated it this week ready to be displayed.



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## UPPS Carols and Award Night

~ Thursday 19th December

Arrive from 5.30pm if you wish to bring a picnic dinner **for a 6pm sharp start.**

Students can come in Christmas clothes.

Bring your own chairs/blankets/aeroguard/snacks

No Alcohol or smoking allowed on site.

All students are expected to sit with their classes during the concert.

Car parking will be limited, please consider car pooling. There will be no general access to the staff car park. If you require a disabled car park please contact the office.

**Raffle tickets—Hampers  
—\$1 a ticket sold on the night.**

### **UPPS Legend will be presented to:**

Lucy Flemming  
Isabella Cassar  
Ana Zmejkoska

# Principal's Report

What a year!

We have had so many achievements in 2024!

We achieved success in attaining the goals set in our Annual plan.

Our performance report this year shows that we are rated HIGH in the areas of Learning and Wellbeing – this is an achievement to be very proud of! We also presented at the Victorian principals conference this year, which was a huge honour!

Some of the opportunities and successes we have had include:

Camps to Sovereign Hill and the city, interschool sports, dress up days, State final representatives in sport, students being selected for the High Ability program, Market Day, amazing art projects, outstanding STEM projects, cooking and of course a high standard of classroom work.

I have been really pleased to have witnessed our students playing alongside each other in the playground, participating in variety of games, all of these have been undertaken in an atmosphere of friendship and inclusion!

This year we say goodbye to some families who have been with us for a very long time. On behalf of everyone in our school community we extend a heartfelt thank you and we wish you all well for the adventures ahead.

For me, it's time to reflect on my time here!

I have been absolutely blessed to have been able to spend the last 10 years at this wonderful school.

I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to everyone in our school community for your support and for trusting me with your most precious thing – your children! I feel so very thankful for the support that you have given me.

I have put my heart and soul into my principal role here and have always been focused on doing the very best for my students, my staff and my families. There have certainly been hurdles along the way but we've ridden the waves together and I've always used kindness and empathy in my decision making during the tough times – this is my way!

For our admin staff, our education support staff, and our teachers – there are not sufficient words to express my admiration for the high expectations that you these people set and the work that they do. The Learning and Wellbeing of our students has always been at the forefront of everything they do. I am so lucky to have been able to work alongside such an awesome team of dedicated professionals! And I am so grateful to have been supported every day, by our superb team of staff, who do over and above what is expected, every day! They do it willingly. They do it because it matters. They do it because they care about our students – your children! THANK YOU to my amazing team!

I have had so many heart warming moments at UPPS and made so many special memories. Camps, laughing and dancing with the admin team, rescuing animals of all sorts, hiding golden stones for our 'mining' team, umpiring a variety of games, getting slimed much to the delight of our students (and probably staff!!!), learning new things, conversations with students, masterchef tasting (help!!!), sharing fun and laughter with everyone, coming down slides, giving out hugs when needed, and laughing and sometimes crying with my students!

Great times! Memorable times! Precious memories made!

Building a warm and caring school environment based on respect, trust, and kindness has always been at the forefront of my thinking. I've always endeavoured to ensure that our students feel safe, happy and valued, when they come to school each day. The strong relationships I have built have been crucial to the success we have achieved together, and I am so very grateful for this.

I need to especially thank and acknowledge my family for all the love and support they have given to me during my time as principal – especially my husband Mick – who has given up countless hours of his time as our 'school handyman' and has always been by my side to support me.

I have always tried to lead by example, and I am proud to say that showing kindness and empathy has been an essential element in all of my decision making. Our school is in a great place, and we are leading the way in many areas of teaching and learning and wellbeing. We have built a very strong reputation in the community, as a school where staff, students, and family members, all respect and support each another. I am so proud of all that we have achieved – together. It has been an absolute privilege and an honour to have been principal at Upper Plenty Primary School. I have truly loved my time here and I will genuinely miss you all. I would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone, and I wish you all every success and happiness in your future.

Finally.....

The people are what makes this school such a wonderful place – you are all at the centre, and I'm so very grateful to have been able to work alongside you all. There will always be a very special place in my heart for my UPPS family! Thank you so, so much!

Please be kind! Sue

## From the Art room



This semester has seen our students explore Print-making & Textiles through a range of fun activities.

Our juniors experimented with printing onto hessian, learnt basic running stitch to complete their artworks and explored wet felting techniques to create decorations for Christmas.



Our year three and four students explored the work of Victorian artist Pete Cromer before creating animal collages using their own painted and printed papers. They learnt how to make pom-poms and experimented with mono printing, transferring their own drawn image through the use of printing foam before producing a number of Christmas cards with their own printed images and painted papers.



Year five and six students learnt printing techniques with gelli plates and had the opportunity to produce a range of organic, abstract images.

As the final pieces of artwork were completed by our senior students, self-expression was the focus. We discussed how, at times, we all wear 'masks' and project different aspects of our personalities in different environments, and why we might keep other parts of ourselves a little hidden sometimes.

Our wish for our year six students as they enter the next chapter of their lives is that they find people in their lives that support them to be authentically themselves so that can feel comfortable being exactly who they want to be!

Good-bye and good-luck to our year six cohort, thankyou for sharing your creativity with us all!





Finally, we would like to send a warm thankyou to the Panakal family for their generous donation of a birdhouse for our school grounds. Students form all year levels have had the opportunity to paint the birdhouse form the basecoat to the final decorations and we can't wait to see it grace our school garden for years to come!



# School Saving Bonus

The Victorian Government is delivering the School Saving Bonus – a one-off \$400 support for government school students from Prep to Year 12 in 2025.

From Tuesday 26 November 2024, you will receive an email from the Department of Education with your unique \$400 School Saving Bonus code.

The School Saving Bonus will help families cover the cost of uniforms, textbooks, excursions, activities and more.

If you have multiple children enrolled in Victorian government schools for 2025, you will receive one School Saving Bonus code email per child. These emails might arrive on different days. Please make sure to check your spam/junk email folder.

Parents and carers can use the School Saving Bonus code in store at school-nominated suppliers. Parents and carers can also choose to access the School Saving Bonus online system, where they can allocate part or all the \$400 bonus to use at school nominated-online suppliers or for school activities. To learn more about the School Saving Bonus, visit [School Saving Bonus | vic.gov.au \(www.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus). A step-by-step user guide will be available on the webpage on 26 November.

If you have not received your School Saving Bonus code via email by Friday 29 November, please contact the Department of Education by emailing [school.saving.bonus@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:school.saving.bonus@education.vic.gov.au)

[School Saving Bonus Parent "How to" Video](#) link

## How to Maximise Your \$400 School Saving Bonus!

with State Schools' Relief!

**Get ready!** In November 2024, you'll receive an email from the Department of Education with amazing news—your \$400 School Saving Bonus is on its way! This special bonus is designed to make school life easier, and YOU get to decide how to use it!

### How can you spend your \$400 bonus?



### Here's where the fun begins!

From late-November 2024 you can purchase high-quality generic (unbranded) uniform items, including stylish school shoes, through State Schools' Relief.



### How to shop with State Schools Relief and use your bonus!



### Shop Smart with State Schools' Relief

We're here to bring you affordable, great quality, durable school gear, including:

- **School Uniforms:** Shorts, pants, skirts, dresses and jackets
- **Leather Shoes:** Tough and trendy
- **Eco-Friendly Swimwear:** Perfect for your school's swimming program

### But wait, there's more!

The School Saving Bonus is **extra** on top of other awesome programs like the Camps, Sports, and Excursions Fund (CSEF) and the Affordable School Uniforms Program. **More savings = more benefits for your family!**

**And here's the cherry on top—**when you shop with State Schools' Relief, you're helping more than just your own family. Every dollar spent supports critical welfare programs for students in need across Victoria. So, you can feel extra good about those new school shoes!

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

### CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

### HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments:** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

**2025 New student  
applications open  
term 1, 2025**



## Hats are Compulsory!

The school Sunsmart policy states that all students will wear a broad brim hat at all times they are outside from the start of September until the end of April.

Peaked caps are **NOT** acceptable at any time.

Any student without a hat will have to stay undercover or in the gazebo.

Hats are available from the office or the uniform shop for \$10



## Vegetation clearance works Bushfire Prevention Program

Over the holiday period vegetation clearance will be taking place  
In the school grounds and the creek.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM ALL THINGS UNIFORM FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ATTENDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Important information about School uniforms 2025

With the \$400 School bonus available to **ALL** students (*that's right ALL*, not means tested) attending public schools, we are expecting extraordinary demand on uniforms leading into 2025.

It's really important to **ORDER NOW** & WE WILL HOLD YOUR UNIFORM ORDER UNTIL NEXT YEAR, AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT WITH STOCK OUTS - (*& there will be!*)

No deposit required ~ VOUCHERS CAN BE REDEEMED UPON COLLECTION - it's definitely not too early !!

Online ordering available

~ choose option 'On Account' upon check out & we'll organise and hold your order until you are ready to collect it !

You can also phone 5784 2276 or email [info@allthingsuniform.com.au](mailto:info@allthingsuniform.com.au) your order.

Any queries, please don't hesitate to contact our store on 5784 2276

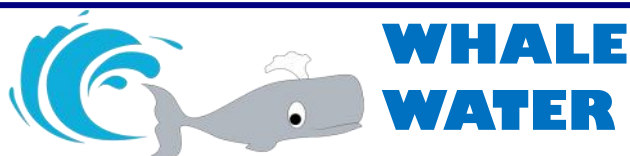
## All Things Uniform

64 HIGH STREET  
Broadford. Vic. 3658  
E : [tracey@allthingsuniform.com.au](mailto:tracey@allthingsuniform.com.au)  
P : 03 5784 2276  
M : 0407 781 455

You can pop in to the store during normal business hours or make an order via phone or email to the store.

**Online Ordering  
now  
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<http://upps.allthingsuniform.getworkgear.com/>



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Fully equipped hall in a beautiful setting  
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All enquires  
please call  
Susan and  
Wayne  
0499 907 017



TheHub 3756 is a FREE early help program offered by Kids First, Wellways, FamilyCare and Mitchell Shire Council.

Our team of Family Coaches are here to support families and children aged 0 - 12 years within the Wallan community.

#### What we offer

- Tailored and practical support to meet your individual needs
- 1:1 coaching to build your parenting skills and confidence
- Regular group programs where you can connect with others and grow your support network
- Help to access a variety of safe and supportive specialised services

#### Get in touch

- 📧 [thehub3756.org.au](http://thehub3756.org.au)
- ☎ 1300 253 961
- ✉ [thehub3756@kidsfirstaustralia.org.au](mailto:thehub3756@kidsfirstaustralia.org.au)
- 📍 Wallan Community Services Hub  
42/80 Bentinck Street, Wallan VIC 3756



[TheHub 3756](http://TheHub 3756)

**This is a FREE Community Service.**

Our team of Family Coaches are here to support families and children aged 0 - 12 years within the Wallan community.

## School Bank Account details

Name: Upper Plenty Primary School Council  
BSB 083001  
Account Number 92 466 6216



Upper Plenty Primary School acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waterways.

We pay our respect to their rich cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging, and other First Nations people who live, work and play in the area.

